



March 17, 2009

Mayor Kay Halloran
City of Cedar Rapids
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Dear Mayor Halloran:

I am writing to voice strong support for funding to establish a "Multi-Generational Community Life Center" in Cedar Rapids, with a strong early childhood component to its services.

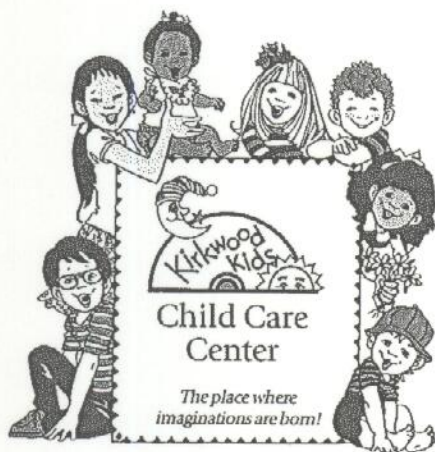
As the representative of one of the partners in the "Community Early Learning Institute" project, I would be delighted if sufficient state and federal funding could be obtained by PLAY to build a facility that could house our Institute project at a reasonable on-going cost, which would permit our partnership to offer innovative early childhood services at the site. It is a natural fit and would be of great benefit to children and families in our community.

I am the Director of Linn County Child Development Center and last June's floodwaters came up as close as our playground gate. While we were spared from significant damage, we serve many families who were not as fortunate. A Community Life Center located adjacent to flood affected neighborhoods would help to speed the re-building of these areas and could address important on-going child and family needs.

I urge potential funders of a Community Life Center to give strong consideration to the request presented by PLAY.

Sincerely,

Chris Carman
Director, Linn County Child Development Center



6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW
P.O. Box 2068
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Phone: 319-398-1256
Fax: 319-398-1035
www.kirkwood.edu

March 16, 2009

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Community Life Center in Cedar Rapids. The flood has displaced many neighborhood recreation facilities, human services agencies and non-profit organizations. These are all very important entities that help to create and maintain neighborhoods by bringing them together in a common place with common purposes.

The Community Life Center will be instrumental in the rebuilding of the city of Cedar Rapids. The center will house a number of diverse agencies and groups allowing for effective utilization of space.

The placement of both early childhood classrooms and a senior center allow for interactions between the two which enrich both the lives of the children and older adults.

Sincerely,

Johnna Haggerty



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

University Extension

Linn County Extension
3279 7 Ave. Ste 140
Marion, IA 52302-3731
319 377-9839

March 18, 2009

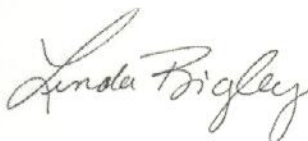
Mayor Kay Halloran
Cedar Rapids City Hall
Cedar Rapids, IA

On behalf of Iowa State University, Linn County Extension I would like to support the application to the Economic Development Administration for assistance in developing the concept of a Multigenerational Community Life Center. As an informal educational organization, ISU Extension is a partner in the "Five Giant Steps" effort to build a supportive environment for the families of young children. We are also a partner in the effort to implement a "Community Early Learning Institute" and believe that partnering with the PLAY group in promotion of a Community Life Center concept is a good match for both organizations.

On a broader scale the mission of ISU Extension is to build partnerships and provide research - based learning opportunities to improve the quality of life in Iowa. We believe that a Multigenerational Community Life Center would provide extensive opportunities for Extension programming.

Research shows that strong families build strong communities and that families of all ages are stronger when they have a community network that provides support, opportunities to network and an opportunity for self-improvement. This project can offer all of those components and help Cedar Rapids to remain a strong vibrant community.

Sincerely,



Linda Bigley
Linn County Extension Education Director



Healthy Linn Care Network
Healthy People. Healthy Community.

March 19, 2009

Mayor Kay Halloran
City of Cedar Rapids
Cedar Rapids, IA. 52401

Dear Mayor Halloran,

Healthy Linn Care Network (HLCN) and its community partners would like to express support for the development of a *Multigenerational Community Life Center* in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A partnership of St. Luke's Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, Linn County Public Health and Linn County Community Services, as well as the launcher for the "Fifteen in 5" Access to Healthcare Collaborative, HLCN strives to act as a catalyst for health improvement in our County by building and promoting collaborative opportunities to create a healthier community.

This Center will not only support the economic development of our community, but will also improve the health status of all those who live, learn and work in Linn County by providing additional opportunities to access a variety of activities. The proposed aspects of the Center will not only improve physical health, but also build emotional and mental health, as well as supporting an increased sense of community connectedness – a critical aspect of flood recovery.

The capacity to address identified priority health issues in Linn County, including obesity (nutrition and physical activity), health care access, substance abuse prevention and early detection of mental illness will be improved by creating this Center, which will act as a hub for bringing people together, coordinating resources, and sharing information. The *Multigenerational Community Life Center* has the ability to create a culture of wellness within Cedar Rapids and surrounding areas.

We look forward to the next steps in the process of developing this collaborative community project and partnering to create positive community outcomes for all Cedar Rapids families.

Sincerely,

Stephanie L. Neff, Executive Director
Healthy Linn Care Network



HAWKEYE AREA
COMMUNITY ACTION
PROGRAM, INC ■

a help up, not a hand out

March 19, 2009

Mayor Kay Halloran
City of Cedar Rapids
Cedar Rapids, IA. 52401

Dear Mayor Halloran,

The Hawkeye Area Community Action Program supports the application for Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds to develop a *Multigenerational Community Life Center* in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. As a Community Action Program, we promote economic and emotional strength toward a goal of self-sufficiency for the disadvantaged people in our communities. Beyond administering programs, we are engaged in community initiatives for Housing, Economic & Family Resources, Health & Nutrition, Advocacy & Community Information, and Early Childhood Development.

Our Early Childhood Development programs (Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care Resource & Referral, and five giant steps) are involved in an innovative effort to launch a *Community Early Learning Institute* for families with young children in Linn County, Iowa. This project is a natural fit within a *Multigenerational Community Life Center*, as indicated by a local research project by Community Development- Data Information Analysis Laboratory of Iowa State University, University Extension Services.

Additionally, both the *Community Early Learning Institute* and the *Multigenerational Community Life Center* are priorities of the Fifteen in five Community Planning Process pre-flood. Post-flood, the needs of our community are even more profound. At a minimum, Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds for a *Multigenerational Community Life Center* will advance infrastructure rebuilding and prepare our community for future emergencies. With sufficient project funding, a *Multigenerational Community Life Center* can create a magnet affect for our community and foster positive outcomes for local citizens.

Again, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program strongly supports full funding for a *Multigenerational Community Life Center* in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as well as an early childhood component within the facility.

Sincerely,

Jane Drapeaux
CEO, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program



GRANT WOOD
AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

4401 Sixth Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-4499
(319) 399-6700
Iowa WATS (800) 332-8488
FAX (319) 399-6457
TDD (319) 399-6766
www.aea10.k12.ia.us

March 20, 2009

Mayor Kay Halloran
City of Cedar Rapids
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Dear Mayor Halloran:

On behalf of Grant Wood Area Education Agency and my colleagues involved with educating students from birth to age 21, I am delighted to write in support of the application of the PLAY organization for the Multi-Generational Community Life Center. Both PLAY and the "five giant steps" early childhood initiative have grown out of the broad-based "Fifteen-In-5" community planning process undertaken by the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

As a member of the "five giant steps" Steering Committee and the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, I believe these two community initiatives bring our region together on shared goals. A "Community Early Learning Institute" is one of the primary projects of the early childhood initiative. The demand for high-quality early care and education programming is growing within the state of Iowa. This demand should be met by offering comprehensive, well-coordinated programs. With adequate facility funding, there is strong likelihood that a Community Early Learning Institute could leverage the co-location of a range of key community early childhood resources at a Community Life Center.

The Grant Wood Area Education Agency is committed to this project. I am willing to serve on the oversight committee and am interested in continuing the dialogue about the possibility of the Grant Wood Area Education Agency partnering with the PLAY organization.

The Grant Wood Area Education Agency urges your favorable response to the application of the PLAY organization for the Multi-Generational Community Life Center, as well as the establishment of an early childhood component in such a facility.

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Fielder
Chief Administrator



March 19, 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lorna M. Barnes

Chair

Ron Olson

Vice Chair

Kay L. Hegarty

Treasurer

Gerald T. Matchett

Secretary

Richard B. Altorfer

Gary Bartlett

John M. Bickel

J. Scott Bogguss

Loren Coppock

Swati A. Dandekar

Chris DeWolf

Ruth Hairston

Elizabeth Hladky

Nancy Kasparek

Kathy Krusie

Sean McPartland

Cheryle Mitvalsky

Rich Patterson

Gary Skogman

Fred Timko

Dr. Ruth E. White

CHAIR EMERITA

Nancy G. McHugh

HONORARY DIRECTOR

William P. Whipple

PRESIDENT & CEO

Daniel R. Baldwin

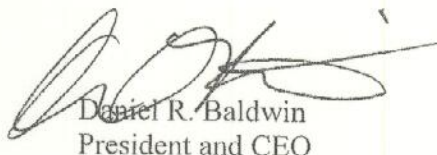
Dear Mr. Saxon:

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation is proud to extend our support of a State-of-the-Art Community Life Center in Linn County. As a charitable non-profit organization focused on enhancing our communities for generations to come, we see great value in the role a Community Life Center would have in building a better community for the future.

As you are well aware, the June 2008 flood devastated more than one hundred non-profits in Cedar Rapids. These non-profits continue to provide critical resources and programming to residents post-flood but many are struggling to keep up with and meet all community needs. A Community Life Center has the potential to fill numerous voids our community faces including organization meeting and/or community room space, recreation facilities, an aquatics center and a community kitchen.

It is our hope that a Community Life Center would bring neighbors together to build a healthy, productive and sustainable Linn County. We are encouraged by the progress you have made the past four years as part of the 15-in-5 initiative and look forward to the opportunities our community will enjoy with a Community Life Center.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Baldwin
President and CEO

200 First Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-5702
Telephone 319/366.2862
Facsimile 319/366.2912
Website www.gccrf.org

Make the gift of a lifetime - remember The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation in your estate plans.



March 17, 2009

Mayor Kay Halloran
City of Cedar Rapids
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Dear Mayor Halloran:

I am writing to verify strong support from the "five giant steps" early childhood initiative for the Multi-Generational Community Life Center being planned by the PLAY organization. Both PLAY and "five giant steps" are initiatives that have grown out of the broad-based "Fifteen-In-5" community planning process undertaken by the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

As chair of the "five giant steps" Steering Committee I am pleased that these two community initiatives have been able to work hand-in-hand to envision a brighter future for our community. A "Community Early Learning Institute" is one of the primary projects of our early childhood initiative. "five giant steps" has been active in bringing potential partners together to explore establishing this type of Institute. While the partners themselves will be the implementing vehicle for such an effort, I can attest to a sincere interest in exploring how the Institute concept could line up with a Multi-Generational Community Life Center. With adequate facility funding, there is strong likelihood that a Community Early Learning Institute could leverage the co-location of a range of key community early childhood resources at a Community Life Center.

"five giant steps" has released two in-depth community reports on the effects of the 2008 Flood on local children and early childhood services. State and federal support for a Multi-Generational Community Life Center with a strong early childhood component would help to address pressing child and family needs that resulted from the flood. Further, locating such a center adjacent to flood-affected neighborhoods will further speed the re-building of these historic Cedar Rapids neighborhoods.

Again, "five giant steps" strongly supports the efforts of PLAY in seeking funds for a Multi-Generational Community Life Center, as well as the establishment of an early childhood component in such a facility.

Sincerely,

Chris Carman
Steering Committee Chair

*Chris Kivett-Berry
520 11th Street NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
E-mail: chriskb@southslope.net*

March 17, 2009

Mayor Kay Halloran
City Hall
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Re: Multigenerational Community Life Center

Dear Mayor Halloran,

I am pleased to hear that a critical priority from the 15 in Five Community Planning process is poised to move forward. You will recall that P.L.A.Y. is the local initiative charged with "Building a State-of-the-Art Community Life Center." I have kept current with the P.L.A.Y. activities and remain impressed with their community involvement, planning and vision.

I understand that due to collaborative efforts between P.L.A.Y. and the Cedar Rapids Parks & Recreation Department that an application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) is pending. The P.L.A.Y. planning efforts were in place before the flood but their value increased exponentially after the tragedy. As Cedar Rapids rebuilds itself it has an unprecedented opportunity to indeed "Build a State-Of-the Art Community Life Center" with the help of EDA funding.

So many groups in our community would benefit from the concept that they it is impossible to list them all! However, I see a hub that would have positive impacts on our youngest and oldest citizens and everyone in between. Imagine a new family to the community entering the Community Center to find that they can access high quality child care while they attend adult education or fitness classes. They are glad they moved to Linn County! I can envision a branch of the library that is accessible to families who also stopped in to use the pool on a cold wintry day. A well planned site would include both indoor and outdoor learning environments that would be visited by children on field trips. Local non-profit board and agencies would have comfortable spaces to hold meetings/trainings to fill the void left after the flood ruined many meeting sites. The Multigenerational Center will become a destination, a community hub and a great place to spend time!

Please consider fully supporting the application for funding of the Multigenerational Community Life Center. Our community needs it and they named it a priority of the Fifteen in 5 process.

Sincerely,
Chris Kivett-Berry



Child Care Resource and Referral
PO Box 490/1515 Hawkeye Dr
Hiawatha, IA 52233
319-393-7811/1-800-233-0054

Funding provided by the Iowa
Department of Human Services through
the Child Care Development Fund.



A Unit of Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Member of Iowa Statewide CCR&R Network System

Mar. 18, 2009

Mayor Kay Halloran
City of Cedar Rapids
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Dear Mayor Halloran:

I would like to express strong support for the proposed *Multi-Generational Community Life Center* in Cedar Rapids planned by P.L.A.Y. with the inclusion of plans for a high quality early childhood resource center.

I am the Manager of Child Care Resource and Referral, one of the community partners working with five giant steps in planning for a *Community Early Learning Institute*. Many local agencies have participated in this planning over several years since the Fifteen-In-5 Community Planning process was announced. I believe it is a wonderful opportunity to combine the efforts of both five giant steps and P.L.A.Y. in this exciting project.

A *Multi-Generational Community Life Center* would benefit, just what the name implies, people of all ages and interests. The center would be a place for senior citizens to gather, share a meal, exercise, and enjoy recreational activities. Families could take advantage of swimming lessons, fitness classes and have the convenience of a state-of-the-art child care facility for their children. Local agencies and non-profits could use the space for meetings and classrooms for continuing education.

The *Multi-Generational Community Life Center* is a remarkable opportunity for the City of Cedar Rapids to become an even more welcoming City of Five Seasons!

Sincerely,

Amy O. Bruner
Child Care Programs Manager

Hawkeye Area Community Action Program

An Equal Opportunity Agency

A Member Agency of the United Way

SHAW CLIFTON
General

MAJOR CHARLES SMITH
Divisional Commander



KENNETH BAILLIE
Territorial Commander

CAPTAIN MARK HASLETT
Corps Officer

The Salvation Army

Founded in 1865 by William & Catherine Booth
1000 C Avenue NW ~ Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
Phone: 319-364-9131 ~ Fax: 319-364-0801
www.tsacedarrapids.org

March 17, 2009

Gail Loskill
Marketing & Communications Director
Cedar Rapids Parks & Recreation
2000 Mt Vernon Road SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Dear Ms Loskill:

On behalf of the Cedar Rapids Salvation Army and the Executive Committee of its Advisory Board, I would like to extend support of the concept for a multi-purpose, multi-generational community life center here in Cedar Rapids. Facility needs were present for many organizations like ours before the flood. In the year preceding, The Salvation Army itself had been looking at the feasibility of a capital campaign to meet its own growing programming demands. Its current facility is land-locked in a residential neighborhood with no green space, insufficient parking and no room to grow.

Post-flood, we all know that facility needs are now tremendous. Cedar Rapids has sustained billions in public, private and nonprofit facility losses – The Army included. (Our organization lost the entire lower level of its building.) Collectively our facilities met a diverse spectrum of community needs. There are now many voids in this spectrum. In the aftermath of so much loss and devastation we must also recognize opportunity. Now is the time for partnership. It makes sense to work together to rebuild a better Cedar Rapids. The vision for this community life center is a perfect example of what Cedar Rapids can and should be.

The Salvation Army is interested in being a part of this vision. The Cedar Rapids Army has the largest youth basketball program in this community with nearly 300 teams and 3,000 kids participating. The Salvation Army partners with the Boys and Girls Club to provide after school programming to an average of 50 kids a day at its current facility. The Army also has a strong day camp serving 50 children each summer. These programs struggle logistically under one roof and growth is challenged due primarily to the limitations of the building. The Cedar Rapids Army also provides other youth, family and senior programming that would be compatible with this proposed project. We know the need is there for our programs and services, but in so many ways, our general capacity to grow and remain responsive to changing community needs is stifled by the size and location of our current facility. Hand-in-hand with this, we are at capacity for the staff our office can accommodate.

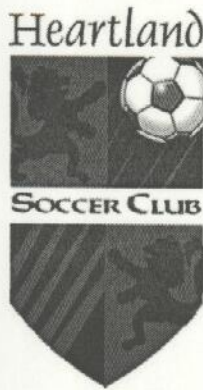
We hope to continue to be a part of the conversation and conceptualization for this project. We believe there are opportunities for our programming/space needs and other possibilities for The Salvation Army within the community life center. This project fulfills a well-documented community need and would be a pillar of hope to those that have lost so much.

Sincerely,

Mindy Kayser
Director of Development & Communications



DOING THE MOST GOOD



HeartlandSC

July 19, 2009

Dear Corridor legislators,

We are writing you to show our enthusiastic support of the **Multi-generational Community Life Center** to be built in Cedar Rapids. This city has long been a wonderful place to live, bring up children and lead a life full of our Midwestern values.

However the City of Cedar Rapids has existed for a long time with old and antiquated recreation and community facilities. When the floods came they destroyed many of these facilities and now we have considerably less opportunities for these important activities.

Sometimes when disaster strikes, it opens up new opportunity for a better way of doing things. This is indeed what the flood of last spring has done for Cedar Rapids. Although it was devastating to many, it brought a light to the fact that having houses so close to the river is not a good idea.

In their place a rolling green space with walking/bike trails, sports fields, picnic areas and general green space for people to enjoy the **fifth season of Cedar Rapids – a time to enjoy.**

This green space could serve as a part of the new flood prevention system that the city desperately needs.

Most importantly standing on the top of the new improved system could be the crown jewel of the city, the new **Multi-generational Community Life Center.**

A place where families of all ages can come and enjoy time together in sporting activities, swimming in the water park, taking arts and crafts classes, checking out library books and simply getting out to meet people. This would also be a place for seniors to gather and get much needed lunches from the Senior Center Staff, get health training and exercise opportunities, play cards with friends or simply enjoy the area inside and out where the families of Cedar Rapids have come to gather. A place where the various small clubs in the area could get space to have meetings and present what they have to offer to the many people coming through.

As people drive through Cedar Rapids and travel down interstate 380 they can look over and see a thriving community enjoying the life style that we all dream to have.

With this letter we ask that join the Heartland Soccer Club Membership in supporting the building of a new **Multi-generational Community Life Center** in one of the most wonderful cities in the Midwest.

Sincerely

HSC Board of Directors

Scott Schultz – Vice President